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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 003793

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARN, NEA/PA, NEA/AIA, INR/NESA, R/MR,  
I/GNEA, B/BXN, B/BRN, NEA/PPD  
USAID/ANE/MEA  
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH  
PARIS FOR O'FRIEL  
USCINCENT/CCPA, USCENTCOM REAR MACDILL AFB FL  
NICOSIA FOR ILMG  
STATE PASS TO AID

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KMDR JO](#)  
SUBJECT: JORDAN: MEDIA REACTION ON IRAQ, OCCUPIED  
TERRITORIES

#### SUMMARY

NEWS REPORTS IN JORDAN'S DAILIES CONCENTRATED ON THE KING ABDULLAH-PRESIDENT PUTIN'S AFFIRMATION THAT THEIR COUNTRIES REJECT MILITARY ACTION AGAINST IRAQ, PRESIDENT BUSH'S CONFIRMATION THAT THE U.S. WILL WORK BY ALL MEANS TO CHANGE THE IRAQI REGIME, THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT'S ATTEMPT TO CALM THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING ITS DECISION TO FACILITATE THE PASSAGE OF PALESTINIANS FROM THE WEST BANK TO JORDAN, AND AN INTERVIEW WITH JORDAN'S AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE TO THE U.S.

EDITORIAL WRITERS COMMENTED ON THE PRESIDENT'S REMARK ON IRAQ AND THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

#### NEWS REPORTS

JORDANIAN DAILIES ON JULY 10 ALL LED WITH REPORTS ON THE STATEMENT BY KING ABDULLAH AND RUSSIAN PRESIDENT PUTIN, IN WHICH THEY AFFIRMED THEIR COUNTRIES' REJECTION OF A MILITARY STRIKE AGAINST IRAQ.

DAILIES ALSO QUOTED PRESIDENT BUSH'S ASSERTION THAT THE U.S. IS WORKING BY ALL MEANS TO CHANGE THE IRAQI REGIME.

CENTER-LEFT, INFLUENTIAL ARABIC DAILY AL-DUSTOUR CARRIED A FEATURE ON THE IRAQI PRODUCTS FAIR IN AMMAN THAT ATTRACTED A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT.

THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR COMMENTED FOR THE SECOND TIME IN THREE DAYS ON THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO FACILITATE THE PASSAGE OF PALESTINIANS COMING FROM THE WEST BANK. HE STRESSED THAT PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO HUMANITARIAN CASES AND THAT JORDAN WILL CONTINUE WORKING TO SUPPORT THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

CENTER-LEFT, INFLUENTIAL ARABIC DAILY AL-DUSTOUR INTERVIEWED JORDAN'S AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE TO THE U.S. KARIM QAWAR, WHO SAID THAT HE WOULD WORK TO EXPAND JORDAN-U.S. RELATIONS IN ALL FIELDS.

#### EDITORIAL COMMENTARIES

-- BUSH RAISES THE RED CARD  
PROMINENT DAILY COLUMNIST DR. FAHED AL-FANEK WROTE IN SEMI-OFFICIAL INFLUENTIAL ARABIC DAILY AL-RAI ON JULY 10: "BUSH DOES NOT RAISE THE RED CARD AS A FAIR INTERNATIONAL REFEREE, BUT AS THE LEADER OF THE MOST POWERFUL NATION ON EARTH, WHICH GIVES HIM NON-NEGLECTIBLE WEIGHT. AT THE SAME TIME, NO ARAB REGIMES WILL DEFEND ARAFAT'S LEADERSHIP OF THE PALESTINIANS BECAUSE NO ONE WANTS TO UPSET THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT OR BET ON A LOSING HORSE. ARAFAT SAID WHILE UNDER SIEGE IN RAMALLAH THAT HE WOULD NOT BE AN EXILE OR A PRISONER, BUT A MARTYR. BUT MARTYRDOM IS NOT LIMITED TO LAYING DOWN ONE'S LIFE. IT CAN INCLUDE FORSAKING ONE'S POSITION. FRIENDS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE ARE BORED WITH THEIR OWN WARNINGS AGAINST THE MONOPOLY OF POWER AND CORRUPTION THAT THREATENED THE FUTURE OF THE PALESTINIAN ENTITY. THESE WARNINGS WERE IGNORED, PERMITTING THE ENEMIES OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO USE THE SITUATION CREATED BY ARAFAT TO DESTROY THE PALESTINIAN DREAM."

-- NORMALIZATION WITH THE ENEMY BARS THE ROAD TO PEACE  
TAHER AL-ADWAN, CHIEF EDITOR OF INDEPENDENT, MASS-APPEAL ARABIC DAILY AL-ARAB AL-YAWM WROTE ON JULY 10: "WHAT PRESIDENT BUSH DESCRIBED AS PROGRESS IN PALESTINIAN REFORMS DOES NOT MATCH THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION BECAUSE TALK OF REFORMS UNDER OCCUPATION IS

LIKE HAVING HAPPY DREAMS IN THE MIDDLE OF A GRAVEYARD. THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI MEETINGS ARE NOT STEPS TOWARDS A PEACE PROCESS, BUT FORCED PALESTINIAN NORMALIZATION WITH THE OCCUPATION. THIS PALESTINIAN AND ARAB NORMALIZATION WITH THE PRESENT REALITY WILL ONLY TEMPT SHARON TO CONTINUE DESTROYING THE PEACE PROCESS WITH THE PALESTINIANS. THE RETURN TO THE PEACE PROCESS WILL NOT START WITH PALESTINIAN REFORMS BUT WITH INTERNATIONAL LEGITIMACY AS EXPRESSED IN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS FROM 242 TO 1397. IGNORING ISRAELI SAVAGERY THAT IS JUSTIFIED BY THE NEED TO KEEP ISRAEL SAFE WILL ONLY SPELL DANGER TO THE WHOLE REGION."

-- AMERICAN THREATS TO STRIKE IRAQ  
THE LEADER COMMENTARY IN CENTER-LEFT, INFLUENTIAL ARABIC DAILY AL-DUSTOUR ON JULY 10 SAID: "PRESIDENT BUSH HAS STARTED AGAIN TO ISSUE THREATS OF A MILITARY STRIKE AGAINST IRAQ. THIS TIME HE DOES NOT BOTHER TO GIVE ANY PRETEXTS, BUT STATES OPENLY THE OBJECTIVE THAT THE U.S. KEPT HIDING AND DENYING FOR 12 YEARS, WHICH IS TO REPLACE THE IRAQI REGIME BY ONE MADE IN AMERICA. WE REALIZE THAT OUR VOICES WILL BE DROWNED BY THE NOISE OF AMERICAN WEAPONRY, BUT STILL WE WARN THAT THE RESULT OF THE NEW AGGRESSION WILL HURT NOT ONLY 20 MILLION IRAQIS, BUT ALL ARABS. IT WILL NOT SERVE EVEN THE INTERESTS OF THE U.S. NOR ANYONE EXCEPT PERHAPS ISRAEL, WHICH CONTINUES TO URGE WASHINGTON TO DESTROY IRAQ AND WEAKEN THEN ARABS." GNEHM